

Vertue for cuttings, lameness, &c. the part affected being anointed therewith. One thing more he related, not to be omitted, which is, that having told, that the time of catching these Fishes was from the beginning of *March*, to the end of *May*, after which time they appeared no more in that part of the Sea: he did, when asked, whither they then retired, give this Answer, That it was thought, they went into the Weed-beds of the Gulf of *Florida*, it having been observed, that upon their Fins and Tails they have store of Clams or Barnacles, upon which, he said, Rock-weed or Sea-tangle did grow a hand long; many of them having been taken of them, of the bigness of great Oyster-shells, and hung upon the Governour of *Bermudas* his Pales.

*A Narrative concerning the success of Pendulum-Watches at Sea for the Longitudes.*

The Relation lately made by Major *Holmes*, concerning the success of the *Pendulum-Watches* at Sea (two whereof were committed to his Care and Observation in his last voyage to *Cuina* by some of our Eminent *Virtuosi*, and Grand Promoters of Navigation) is as followeth;

The said Major having left that Coast, and being come to the Isle of *St. Thomas* under the *Line*, accompanied with four Vessels, having there adjusted his Watches, put to Sea, and sailed Westward, seven or eight hundred Leagues, without changing his course; after which, finding the Wind favourable, he steered towards the Coast of *Africk*, North-North-East. But having sailed upon that *Line* a matter of two or three hundred Leagues, the Masters of the other Ships, under his Conduct, apprehending that they should want Water, before they could reach that Coast, did propose to him to steer their Course to the *Barbadoes*, to supply themselves with Water there. Whereupon the said Major, having called the Master and Pilots together, and caused them to produce their Journals and Calculations, it was found, that those Pilots did differ in their reckonings from that of the Major, one of them eighty Leagues, another about an hundred, and the third, more; but the Major judging by his *Pendulum-Watches*, that they were only some thirty Leagues distant from  
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the Isle of *Fuego*, which is one of the Isles of *Cape Verde*, and that they might reach it next day, and having a great confidence in the said Watches, resolved to steer their Course thither, and having given order so to do, they got the very next day about Noon a sight of the said Isle of *Fuego*, finding themselves to sail directly upon it, and so arrived at it that Afternoon, as he had said. These Watches having been first Invented by the Excellent Monsieur *Christian Hugens* of *Zulichem*, and fitted to go at Sea, by the Right Honourable, the Earl of *Kincardin*, both Fellows of the *Royal Society*, are now brought by a New addition to a wonderful perfection. The said Monsieur *Hugens*, having been informed of the success of the Experiment, made by *Major Holmes*, wrought to a friend at *Paris* a Letter to this effect;

*Major Holmes* at his return, hath made a relation concerning the usefulness of *Pendulums*, which surpasseth my expectation: I did not imagine that the Watches of this first Structure would succeed so well, and I had reserved my main hopes for the New ones. But seeing that those have already served so successfully, and that the other are yet more just and exact, I have the more reason to believe, that the Invention of *Longitudes* will come to its perfection. In the mean time I shall tell you, that the *States* did receive my Proposition, when I desired of them a Patent for these new Watches, and the recompense set a-part for the invention in case of success; and that without any difficulty they have granted my request, commanding me to bring one of these Watches into their Assembly, to explicate unto them the Invention, and the application thereof to the *Longitudes*; which I have done to their contentment. I have this week published, that the said Watches shall be exposed to sale, together with an Information necessary to use them at Sea: and thus I have broken the Ice. The same Objection, that hath been made in your parts against the exactness of these *Pendulums*, hath also been made here; to wit, that though they should agree together, they might fail both of them, by reason that the Air at one time might be thicker, than at another. But I have answered, that this difference, if there be any, will not be at all perceived in the *Penduls*, seeing that the continuall Observations, made in Winter from day to day, until Summer, have shewed me that  
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they have always agreed with the Sun. As to the Printing of the *Figure* of my New Watch, I shall defer that yet a while : but it shall in time appear with all the Demonstrations thereof, together with a *Treatise* of *Pendulums*, written by me some days since, which is of a very subtile Speculation.

*The Character, lately published beyond the Seas, of an Eminent Person, not long since dead at Tholouse, where he was a Councillor of Parliament.*

It is the deservedly famous *Monsieur de Fermat*, who was, (saith the Author of the Letter) one of the most Excellent Men of this Age, a *Genius* so universal, and of so vast an extent, that if very knowing and learned Men had not given testimony of his extraordinary merit, what with truth can be said of him, would hardly be believed. He entertained a constant correspondence with many of the most Illustrious Mathematicians of *Europe*, and did excel in all the parts of Mathematical Science : a Testimony whereof he hath left behind him in the following Books.

A Method for the Quadrature of *Parabola's* of all degrees.

A Book *De Maximis & Minimis*, which serveth not only for the determination of Problems of *Plains* and *Solids*, but also for the invention of *Tangents* and *Curve Lines*, and of the *Centres* of Gravity in Solids ; and likewise for Numerical Questions.

An Introduction to the Doctrine of *Plains* and *Solids*, which is an *Analytical* Treatise, concerning the solution of *Plains* and *Solids*, which had been seen (as the Advertiser affirms) before *Monsieur Des Cartes* had publish'd any thing upon this Subject.

A Treatise *De Contactibus Sphericis*, where he hath demonstrated in *Solids*, what Mr. *Viet*, Master of Requests, had but demonstrated in *Plains*.

Another Treatise, wherein he establisheth and demonstrateth the two Books of *Apollonius Pergaeus*, of *Plains*.

And a General Method for the dimension of *Curve Lines*, &c. Besides, having a perfect knowledge in Antiquity, he was consulted from all parts upon the difficulties that did emerge therein : he hath explained abundance of obscure places, that are found